

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A vehicular neutralization apparatus comprising:

an ion generator disposed in a vicinity of a room lamp mounted to a central area of a roof inside the vehicle to allow ions, generated by the ion generator, to be oriented toward an occupant, thereby neutralizing static electricity charged to the occupant.

2. (Previously presented) The vehicular neutralization apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a controller configured to control the ion generator so as to cause the ions generated by the ion generator to be supplied toward the occupant to thereby naturalize the static electricity charged to the occupant.

3. (Original) The vehicular neutralization apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a sensor detecting the occupant getting on and off the vehicle,

wherein the controller controls the ion generator in response to the sensor detecting the occupant getting on and off the vehicle.

4. (Original) The vehicular neutralization apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the sensor includes at least one of a door lock sensor detecting a door lock button of the vehicle being actuated, an external door knob sensor detecting an external door knob of the vehicle being actuated, an internal door knob sensor detecting an internal door knob of the vehicle being actuated, an ignition sensor detecting an ignition of the vehicle being actuated, a speed sensor detecting a vehicle speed, a pressure sensitive sensor detecting whether the occupant rests on a seat, and a parking brake sensor detecting a parking brake of the vehicle being actuated.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The vehicular neutralization apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ion generator is disposed in a position inside the vehicle in accordance with a motional posture of the occupant, occurring during getting on and off the vehicle.

7. (Original) The vehicular neutralization apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ion generator is provided with a positive electrode and a negative electrode supplying positive ions and negative ions.

8. (Original) The vehicular neutralization apparatus according to claim 7, wherein a distal end portion of the positive electrode and a distal end portion of the negative electrode of the ion generator are oriented toward the occupant getting on and off the vehicle.

9. (Previously presented) The vehicular neutralization apparatus according to claim 7, wherein a distance between the positive electrode and the negative electrode of the ion generator lies in a value equal to or greater than 50 mm and equal to or less than 100 mm.

10. (Original) The vehicular neutralization apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ion generator is operative for a given time interval to emit the ions toward the occupant getting on and off the vehicle.

11. (Currently amended) A vehicular neutralization apparatus comprising:

ion generating means, disposed in a vicinity of a room lamp mounted to a central area of ~~of a roof of a vehicle and an area in a vicinity of the roof~~ inside the vehicle, for generating ions;
and

controlling means for controlling the ion generating means to supply the ions, generated by the ion generating means, toward an occupant, thereby neutralizing static electricity charged to the occupant.